

In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for communicating an Internet message between a source and a destination over the Internet, comprising:

- (a) selecting a node of a first type, wherein each node of a first type comprises software to receive Internet messages using a first communication protocol and software to transmit Internet messages using a second communication protocol wherein the second communication protocol is not supported by the source or the destination;
- (b) selecting a node of a second type, wherein each node of a second type comprises software to receive Internet messages using the second communication protocol and software to transmit Internet messages using a third communication protocol;
- (c) communicating an Internet message from the source to the selected node of ~~the~~ a first type using ~~a~~ the first communication protocol;
- (d) communicating the Internet message from the selected node of ~~the~~ a first type to the selected node of ~~the~~ a second type using ~~a~~ the second communication protocol; and
- (e) communicating the Internet message from the selected node of ~~the~~ a second type to the destination using ~~a~~ the third communication protocol,
wherein the second communication protocol is designed to be a high performance protocol, and

wherein the step of selecting a node of a first type includes optimizing one or more criteria including a measure of network closeness between the source and the node of a first type, and wherein the step of selecting a node of a second type includes optimizing one or more criteria including a measure of network closeness between the node of a second type and the destination.

2. (currently amended) A method for communicating an Internet message between a source and a destination over the Internet, comprising:

- ~~(a)~~ selecting a node of a first type, wherein each node of a first type comprises software to receive Internet messages using a first communication protocol and software to transmit Internet messages using a second communication protocol wherein the second communication protocol is not supported by the source or the destination;;
- ~~(b)~~ communicating an Internet message from the source to the selected node of ~~the a~~ first type using ~~a the~~ first communication protocol;
- ~~(c)~~ communicating the Internet message from the selected node of ~~the a~~ first type to a node of a second type using ~~a the~~ second communication protocol, wherein the node of a second type comprises software to receive Internet messages using the second communication protocol and software to transmit Internet messages using a third communication protocol; and
- ~~(d)~~ communicating the Internet message from the node of ~~the a~~ second type to the destination using ~~a the~~ third communication protocol,
wherein the second communication protocol is designed to be a high performance protocol, and

wherein the step of selecting a node of a first type includes optimizing one or more criteria including a measure of network closeness between the source and the node of a first type.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of selecting step a node of a first type ~~(a)~~ comprises:

- ~~(a1)~~ for each of a plurality of candidate nodes of the first type, determining a measure of communications performance for a sub-link between the source and ~~the~~ a candidate node of ~~the~~ a first type; and
- ~~(a2)~~ selecting a node of ~~the~~ a first type from among ~~the~~ a plurality of candidate nodes of ~~the~~ a first type to optimize the measure of communications performance for the sub-link between the source and the candidate node of a first type.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of selecting step a node of a first type ~~(a)~~ comprises:

- ~~(a1)~~ for each of a plurality of candidate nodes of the first type, determining a measure of communications performance for a sub-link between the source and ~~the~~ a candidate node of ~~the~~ a first type; and
- ~~(a2)~~ selecting a node of ~~the~~ a first type from among ~~the~~ a plurality of candidate nodes of ~~the~~ a first type to optimize the measure of communications performance for the sub-link between the source and the candidate node of a first type.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of selecting step a node of a second type ~~(b)~~ comprises:

~~(b1) for each of a plurality of candidate nodes of the first type,~~ determining a measure of communications performance for a sub-link between the destination and ~~the~~ a candidate node of the a second type; and

~~(b2) selecting a node of the a second type from among the a plurality of candidate nodes of the a second type to optimize the measure of communications performance~~ for the sub-link between the destination and the candidate node of a second type.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of selecting step (b) a node of a second type comprises:

~~(b1) for each of a plurality of candidate nodes of the second type,~~ determining a measure of communications performance for a sub-link between ~~the a~~ candidate node of ~~the a~~ first type and ~~the a~~ candidate node of ~~the a~~ second type; and

~~(b2) selecting a node of the a second type from among the plurality of candidate nodes of the a second type to optimize the measure of communications performance~~ for the sub-link between the candidate node of a first type and the candidate node of a second type.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein

the step of selecting a node of a first type ~~step (a)~~ comprises:

- ~~(a1) for each of a plurality of candidate nodes of the first types,~~ determining a first measure of communications performance for a sub-link between the source and the a candidate node of the a first type; and
- ~~(a2)~~ selecting a node of the a first type from among the plurality of candidate nodes of the a first type to optimize the first measure of communications performance; and

the step of selecting a node of a second type ~~step (b)~~ comprises:

- ~~(b1) for each of a plurality of candidate nodes of the second type,~~ determining a second measure of communications performance for a sub-link between the a node of the a first type and ~~each a candidate node of the a second type~~, and a third measure of performance for a sub-link between the candidate node of the a second type and the destination; and
- ~~(b2)~~ selecting a node of the a second type from among the a plurality of candidate nodes of the a second type to optimize a combination of the second and third measures of communications performance.

9. (previously canceled)

10. (previously canceled)

11. (previously canceled)

12. (previously canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- (f) communicating a second Internet message from the destination to the node of ~~the~~ a second type using a fourth communication protocol;
- (g) communicating the second Internet message from the node of ~~the~~ a second type to the node of ~~the~~ a first type using a fifth communication protocol; and
- (h) communicating the second Internet message from the node of ~~the~~ a first type to the source using a sixth communication protocol.

14. (previously canceled)

15. (previously canceled)

16. (previously canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of communicating an Internet message from the source to the selected node of a first type ~~step (e)~~ comprises redirecting the Internet message from the source to the node of ~~the~~ a first type.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of communicating an Internet message from the source to the selected node of a first type ~~step (b)~~ comprises redirecting the Internet message from the source to the node of ~~the~~ a first type.

19. (previously canceled)

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first communication protocol is a standard communication protocol, the second communication protocol is a high-performance communication protocol, and the third communication protocol is a standard communication protocol.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the first communication protocol is a standard communication protocol, the second communication protocol is a high-performance communication protocol, and the third communication protocol is a standard communication protocol.

22. (previously canceled)

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the fourth communication protocol is a standard communication protocol, the fifth communication protocol is a high-performance communication protocol, and the sixth communication protocol is a standard communication protocol.

24. (previously canceled)

25. (previously canceled)

26. (previously canceled)

27. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein the Internet message is a World-Wide Web message.

28. (original) The method of claim 21 wherein the Internet message is a World-Wide Web message.

29. (previously canceled)

30. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the Internet message is a World-Wide Web message.

31. (previously canceled)

32. (previously canceled)

33. (previously canceled)

34. (previously canceled)

35. (previously canceled)

36. (currently amended) A system for communicating an Internet message from a source to a destination over the Internet, comprising:

a plurality of nodes including one or more nodes of a first type and one or more nodes

of a second type;

a first selector to identify a node of a first type from the one or more nodes of a first

type and communicate the selection to the source wherein the first selector

identifies the node of a first type to increase the performance of

communicating the Internet message between the source and the destination;

and

a second selector to identify a node of a second type from the one or more nodes of a second type and communicate the selection to a selected node of a first type
wherein the second selector identifies the node of a second type to increase the performance of communicating the Internet message between the source and the destination;

wherein each node of a first type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from the source using a first communication protocol;
a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to a selected node of ~~the~~ a second type using a second communication protocol, wherein the second communication protocol is not supported by the source or the destination and is designed to be a high-performance protocol; and

each node of ~~the~~ a second type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from a the selected node of ~~the~~ a first type; and
a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to the destination using a third communication protocol,
wherein the first selector identifies a node of a first type and the second selector identifies a node of a second type to maximize the performance gain of using the second communication protocol.

37. (currently amended) A system for communicating an Internet message from a source to a destination over the Internet, comprising:

a plurality of nodes including one or more nodes of a first type and one or more nodes of a second type; and

a selector to identify a node of a first type from the one or more nodes of a first type and communicate the selection to the source wherein the selector identifies the node of a first type to increase the performance of communicating the Internet message between the source and the destination;

wherein each node of a first type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from the source using a first communication protocol; and

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to a node of ~~the~~ a second type using a second communication protocol, wherein the second communication protocol is not supported by the source or the destination and is designed to be a high-performance protocol; and

each node of ~~the~~ a second type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from ~~a~~ the selected node of ~~the~~ a first type; and

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to the destination using a third communication protocol.

38. (currently amended) The system of claim 36 wherein:

the first selector identifies a node of ~~the~~ a first type that optimizes a first measure of communications performance for a sub-link between the source and each of a plurality of candidate nodes of ~~the~~ a first type.

39. (currently amended) The system of claim 37 wherein:

the selector identifies a node of ~~the~~ a first type that optimizes a first measure of communications performance for a sub-link between the source and each of a plurality of candidate nodes of ~~the~~ a first type.

40. (currently amended) The system of claim 36 wherein:

the second selector identifies a node of ~~the~~ a second type that optimizes a measure of communications performance for a sub-link between a selected node of ~~the~~ a second type and the destination.

41. (currently amended) The system of claim 36 wherein:

the first selector identifies a node of ~~the~~ a first type that optimizes a measure of communications performance for at least a sub-link in a link from the source to the destination via the node of ~~the~~ a first type and the node of ~~the~~ a second type; and

the second selector identifies a node of ~~the~~ a second type that optimizes a measure of communications performance for at least a sub-link in a link from the source to the destination via the node of ~~the~~ a first type and the node of ~~the~~ a second type.

42. (currently amended) A system for communicating an Internet message from a source to a destination over the Internet, comprising:

a plurality of nodes including one or more nodes of a first type and one or more nodes of a second type; and

a selector to identify a node of a first type from the one or more nodes of a first type and communicate the selection to the source, and to identify a node of a second type from the one or more nodes of a second type and provide the selection to a selected node of a first type, wherein the selector identifies a node of a first type and a node of a second type to increase the performance of communicating the Internet message from the source to the destination;

wherein each node of a first type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from the source using a first communication protocol; and

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to a node of ~~the~~ a second type using a second communication protocol wherein the second communication protocol is not supported by the source or the destination and is designed to be a high performance protocol; and

each node of ~~the~~ a second type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from a selected node of ~~the~~ a first type; and

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to the destination using a third communication protocol,

wherein the selector identifies the node of a first type and the node of a second type to maximize the performance gain of using the second communication protocol.

43. (currently amended) The system of claim 42 wherein the selector identifies a node of ~~the~~ a first type and a node of ~~the~~ a second type that optimize a measure of communications performance for a sub-link between the source and the node of ~~the~~ a first type, a sub-link between the node of ~~the~~ a first type and the node of ~~the~~ a second type, and a sub-link between the node of ~~the~~ a second type and the destination.

44. (currently amended) The system of claim 42 wherein the selector identifies a node of ~~the~~ a first type and a node of ~~the~~ a second type that optimize a measure of communications performance for at least a sub-link in a link between the source and the destination.

45. (currently amended) The system of claim 36 wherein:

each node of ~~the~~ a second type further comprises a receiver to receive a second Internet message from the destination using a fourth communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to a selected node of ~~the~~ a first type using a fifth communication protocol; and each node of ~~the~~ a first type further comprises a receiver to receive the second Internet message from a selected node of ~~the~~ a second type using the fifth communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to the source using a sixth communication protocol.

46. (currently amended) The system of claim 42 wherein:

each node of ~~the~~ a second type further comprises a receiver to receive a second Internet message from the destination using a fourth communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to a selected node of ~~the~~ a first type using a fifth communication protocol; and
each node of ~~the~~ a first type further comprises a receiver to receive the second Internet message from a selected node of ~~the~~ a second type using the fifth communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to the source using a sixth communication protocol.

47. (currently amended) A system for communicating an Internet message from a source to a destination over the Internet, comprising:

a plurality of nodes including one or more nodes of a first type and one or more nodes of a second type; and

a selector to identify a node of a second type from the one or more nodes of a second type and provide the selection to a node of ~~the~~ a first type wherein the selector identifies a node of a second type to increase the performance of communicating the Internet message from the source to the destination;

wherein each node of ~~the~~ a first type comprises:

an interceptor to intercept the Internet message from the source using a first communication protocol; and

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to a selected node of ~~the~~ a second type using a second communication protocol, wherein the

second communication protocol is not supported by the source or the destination and is designed to be a high performance protocol; and
each node of ~~the~~ a second type comprises:
a receiver to receive the Internet message from a selected node of ~~the~~ a first type; and
a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to the destination using a third communication protocol.

48. (currently amended) A system for communicating an Internet message from a source to a destination over the Internet, comprising:

a plurality of nodes including one or more nodes of a first type and one or more nodes of a second type; and

a first selector to identify a node of a first type from the one or more nodes of a first type and communicate the selection to a redirector;

a second selector to identify a node of a second type from the one or more nodes of a second type and provide the selection to a selected node of a first type;

the first and second selectors identify nodes of a first type and nodes of a second type to increase the performance of communicating the Internet message from the source to the destination;

the redirector to redirect the Internet message from the source to the selected node of a first type;

wherein each node of a first type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from the redirector using a first communication protocol; and

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to a selected node of ~~the~~ a
second type using a second communication protocol, wherein the
second communication protocol is not supported by the source or the
destination and is designed to be a high performance protocol; and
each node of ~~the~~ a second type comprises:
a receiver to receive the Internet message from a selected node of ~~the~~ a first
type; and
a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to the destination using a
third communication protocol.

49. (previously canceled)

50. (previously presented) The system of claim 36 wherein the first communication protocol is a standard communication protocol, the second communication protocol is a high-performance communication protocol, and the third communication protocol is a standard communication protocol.

51. (previously presented) The system of claim 37 wherein the first communication protocol is a standard communication protocol, the second communication protocol is a high-performance communication protocol, and the third communication protocol is a standard communication protocol.

52. (previously presented) The system of claim 42 wherein the first communication protocol is a standard communication protocol, the second communication protocol is a high-

performance communication protocol, and the third communication protocol is a standard communication protocol.

53. (previously presented) The system of claim 45 wherein the fourth communication protocol is a standard communication protocol, the fifth communication protocol is a high-performance communication protocol, and the sixth communication protocol is a standard communication protocol.

54. (previously presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the fourth communication protocol is a standard communication protocol, the fifth communication protocol is a high-performance communication protocol, and the sixth communication protocol is a standard communication protocol.

55. (previously presented) The system of claim 45 wherein the first communication protocol is a standard communication protocol, the second communication protocol is a high-performance communication protocol, and the third communication protocol is a standard communication protocol.

56. (previously presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the first communication protocol is a standard communication protocol, the second communication protocol is a high-performance communication protocol, and the third communication protocol is a standard communication protocol.

57. (previously presented) The system of claim 36 wherein the Internet message is a World-Wide Web message.

58. (previously presented) The system of claim 37 wherein the Internet message is a World-Wide Web message.

59. (previously presented) The system of claim 42 wherein the Internet message is a World-Wide Web message.

60. (previously canceled)

61. (previously canceled)

62. (currently amended) A system for communicating an Internet message from a source to a destination over the Internet, comprising:

a plurality of nodes including one or more nodes of a first type and one or more nodes of a second type;

a first selector to identify a node of a first type from the one or more nodes of a first type and communicate the selection to the source;

a second selector to identify a node of a second type from the one or more nodes of a second type and communicate the selection to a selected node of a first type;

the first and second selectors identify a node of a first type and a node of a second type to increase the performance of communicating the Internet message from the source to the destination;

wherein each node of a first type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from the source using a first communication protocol;

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to a selected node of the second type using a second communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a second type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from a selected node of ~~the~~ a first type; and

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to the destination using a third communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a second type further comprises a receiver to receive a second Internet message from the destination using a fourth communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to a selected node of ~~the~~ a first type using a fifth communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a first type further comprises a receiver to receive the second Internet message from a selected node of the second type using the fifth communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to the source using a sixth communication protocol;

the first, third, fourth, and sixth communication protocol each include use of HTTP and TCP protocol standards;

the second and fifth communication protocols each make use of a persistent transport connection between a node of the first type and a node of the second type;

each receiver includes one or more network adaptors and supporting protocol stack software;

each selected node of ~~the~~ a first type and each selected node of the second type is a computer that includes a receiver and implementing software that includes web proxy software;

the first selector includes DNS server software that communicates the selection to the source using a DNS protocol; and

the first selector includes software to select a node of ~~the~~ a first type based at least in part on an estimate of network distance between the source and the selected node of ~~the~~ a first type.

63. (previously canceled)

64. (previously canceled)

65. (previously canceled)

66. (previously canceled)

67. (currently amended) A system for communicating an Internet message between a source and a destination, comprising:

a plurality of nodes including one or more nodes of a first type and one or more nodes of a second type;

a first selector to identify a node of a first type from the one or more nodes of a first type and communicate the selection to the source;

a second selector to identify a node of a second type from the one or more nodes of a second type and communicate the selection to a selected node of a first type;

the first and second selectors identify nodes of a first type and nodes of a second type
to increase the performance of communicating the Internet message from the
source to the destination;

wherein each node of a first type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from the source using a first
communication protocol;

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to a selected node of ~~the~~ a
second type using a second communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a second type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from a selected node of ~~the~~ a first
type; and

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to the destination using a
third communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a second type further comprises a receiver to receive a second
Internet message from the destination using a fourth communication protocol,
and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to a selected
node of ~~the~~ a first type using a fifth communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a first type further comprises a receiver to receive the second Internet
message from a selected node of ~~the~~ a second type using the fifth
communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet
message to the source using a sixth communication protocol;

the first, third, fourth, and sixth communication protocols each include use of HTTP
and TCP protocol standards;

at least one of the second and fifth communication protocol is a high-performance communication protocol;

each receiver includes one or more network adaptors and supporting protocol stack software;

each selected node of ~~the~~ a first type and each selected node of ~~the~~ a second type is a computer that includes a receiver and implementing software that includes proxy software;

the first selector includes DNS server software that communicates the selection to the source using a DNS protocol; and

the first selector includes software to select a node of ~~the~~ a first type based at least in part on an estimate of network distance between the source and the selected node of ~~the~~ a first type.

68. (currently amended) A system for communicating an Internet message between a source and a destination, comprising:

a plurality of nodes including one or more nodes of a first type and one or more nodes of a second type;

a first selector to identify a node of a first type from the one or more nodes of a first type and communicate the selection to the source wherein the first selector identifies a node of a first type to increase the performance of communicating the Internet message from the source to the destination;

wherein each node of a first type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from the source using a first communication protocol;

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to a node of ~~the~~ a second type using a second communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a second type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from a selected node of ~~the~~ a first type; and

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to the destination using a third communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a second type further comprises a receiver to receive a second Internet message from the destination using a fourth communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to a selected node of the first type using a fifth communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a first type further comprises a receiver to receive the second Internet message from a node of ~~the~~ a second type using the fifth communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to the source using a sixth communication protocol; and

the first selector includes DNS server software that communicates the selection to the source using a DNS protocol.

69. (currently amended) A system for communicating an Internet message between a source and a destination, comprising:

a plurality of nodes including one or more nodes of a first type and one or more nodes of a second type;

a first selector to identify a node of a first type from the one or more nodes of a first type and communicate the selection to the source;

wherein each node of a first type comprises:

- a receiver to receive the Internet message from the source using a first communication protocol;
- a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to a node of ~~the~~ a second type using a second communication protocol wherein the second communication protocol is designed to be a high performance protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a second type comprises:

- a receiver to receive the Internet message from a selected node of ~~the~~ a first type; and
- a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to the destination using a third communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a second type further comprises a receiver to receive a second Internet message from the destination using a fourth communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to a selected node of ~~the~~ a first type using a fifth communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a first type further comprises a receiver to receive the second Internet message from a node of ~~the~~ a second type using the fifth communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to the source using a sixth communication protocol; and

the first, third, fourth, and sixth communication protocols each include use of HTTP and TCP protocol standards,

wherein the first selector identifies the node of a first type to maximize the performance gain of using the second communication protocol.

70. (currently amended) A system for communicating an Internet message between a source and a destination, comprising:

a plurality of nodes including one or more nodes of a first type and one or more nodes of a second type;

a first selector to identify a node of a first type from the one or more nodes of a first type and communicate the selection to the source wherein the first selector identifies a node of a first type to increase the performance of communicating the Internet message from the source to the destination;

wherein each node of a first type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from the source using a first communication protocol;

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to a node of ~~the~~ a second type using a second communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a second type comprises:

a receiver to receive the Internet message from a selected node of ~~the~~ a first type; and

a transmitter to communicate the Internet message to the destination using a third communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a second type further comprises a receiver to receive a second Internet message from the destination using a fourth communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to a selected node of ~~the~~ a first type using a fifth communication protocol;

each node of ~~the~~ a first type further comprises a receiver to receive the second Internet message from a node of the second type using the fifth communication protocol, and a transmitter to communicate the second Internet message to the source using a sixth communication protocol;

the first, third, fourth, and sixth communication protocols are standardized web communication protocols;

at least one of the second and fifth communication protocols is a high-performance communication protocol;

each receiver includes one or more network adaptors and supporting protocol stack software; and

the first selector includes software to select a node of ~~the~~ a first type based at least in part on an estimate of network distance between the source and the selected node of ~~the~~ a first type.

71. (currently amended) A method for communicating between a source and a destination in a system, wherein the system comprises:

a client, the client associated with a selector;

a server;

a plurality of specialized nodes, the specialized nodes including software to understand standardized web communication protocols, the plurality of specialized nodes including at least one first specialized node and at least one second specialized node;

a plurality of nodes, wherein the plurality of nodes does not include specialized nodes;

a first communication protocol for communicating messages between at least some of the plurality of nodes, between at least one of the plurality of nodes and at least one of the plurality of specialized nodes, and between at least one of the plurality of specialized nodes and the client, wherein the first communication protocol is a widely used standardized web communication protocol;

an internode communication protocol for communicating messages between the at least one first specialized node and the at least one second specialized node, wherein the internode communication protocol is a high-performance communication protocol;

a third communication protocol for communicating messages between at least some of the plurality of nodes, between at least one of the plurality of nodes and at least one of the plurality of specialized nodes, and between at least one of the plurality of specialized nodes and the server, wherein the third communication protocol is a widely used standardized web communication protocol;

wherein the method comprises:

selecting a first specialized node using the selector wherein the selector selects a first specialized node to maximize the performance gain of using the internode protocol;

communicating a message between the client and the selected first specialized node using the first communication protocol;

communicating the message between the selected first specialized node and the at least one second specialized node using the internode communication protocol; and

communicating the message between the at least one second specialized node and the server using the third communication protocol.

72. (previously presented) The method and system of claim 71, wherein the system further comprises:

a second selector associated with the at least one first specialized node;
and wherein the method further comprises:
selecting at least one of the plurality of second specialized nodes using the second selector.

73. (previously presented) The method and system of claim 71, wherein the selector utilizes DNS.

74. (previously presented) The method and system of claim 71, wherein the selector utilizes HTTP redirection.

75. (currently amended) A method comprising:

deploying a plurality of first specialized nodes, each of the plurality of first specialized nodes including software to receive and transmit messages conforming to a first communication protocol, the first communication protocol being a standardized web communication protocol, and software to receive and transmit messages conforming to a high-performance communication protocol;

deploying a plurality of second specialized nodes, each of the plurality of second specialized nodes including software to receive and transmit messages conforming to the high-performance communication protocol, and software to receive and transmit messages conforming to a third communication protocol, the third protocol being a standardized web communication protocol;

operating a selector for selecting one of the plurality of first specialized nodes;

providing for communicating messages between a source and the selected first specialized node using the first communication protocol;

providing for communicating messages between the selected first specialized node and one of the second specialized nodes using the high-performance communication ~~second~~ protocol; and

providing for communicating messages between one of the selected second specialized nodes and a destination using the third communication protocol.

76. (currently amended) A method for communicating between a source and a destination in a system, the system comprising:

a plurality of first specialized nodes, each of the plurality of first specialized nodes including software to receive and transmit messages conforming to a first communication protocol, the first communication protocol being a standardized web communication protocol, and software to receive and transmit messages conforming to a high-performance communication protocol; and

a plurality of second specialized nodes, each of the plurality of second specialized nodes including software to receive and transmit messages conforming to the

high-performance communication protocol, and software to receive and transmit messages conforming to a third communication protocol, the third protocol being a standardized web communication protocol;

wherein the method comprises:

selecting one of the plurality of first specialized nodes wherein the selecting of a first specialized node includes selecting a first specialized node to increase the performance of communicating the Internet message from the source to the destination;

communicating a message between the source and the selected first specialized node using the first communication protocol;

selecting one of the plurality of second specialized nodes;

communicating the message between the selected first specialized node and the selected second specialized node using the high-performance communication protocol; and

communicating the message between the selected second specialized node and the destination using the third communication protocol.

77. (previously presented) The method and system of claim 76, wherein

the step of selecting one of the plurality of first specialized nodes includes selecting one of the plurality of first specialized nodes to optimize a measure of communications performance between the source and the selected first specialized node.

78. (previously presented) The method and system of claim 76, wherein
- the step of selecting one of the plurality of second specialized nodes includes
- selecting one of the plurality of second specialized nodes to optimize a
- measure of communication performance between the selected first specialized
- node and the selected second specialized node.
79. (new) A method comprising:
- selecting a node of a first type from one or more nodes of a first type to increase the
- performance of communicating the Internet message between the source and
- the destination, wherein the selected node of a first type is close to the source;
- selecting a node of a second type from one or more nodes of a second type to increase
- the performance of communicating the Internet message between the source
- and the destination, wherein the selected node of a second type is close to the
- destination;
- communicating an Internet message from the source to the selected node of a first
- type using a first communication protocol;
- communicating the Internet message from the selected node of a first type to the
- selected node of a second type using a second communication protocol that is
- designed to be a high-performance protocol; and
- communicating the Internet message from the selected node of a second type to the
- destination using a third communication protocol.

80. (new) A method for communicating an Internet message between a source and a destination comprising:

- selecting a first specialized node from one or more first specialized nodes to minimize the distance between the source and the selected first specialized node;
- selecting a second specialized node from one or more second specialized nodes to minimize the distance between the selected second specialized node and the destination;
- communicating an Internet message from the source to the selected first specialized node using a first communication protocol;
- communicating the Internet message from the selected first specialized node to the selected second specialized node using a second communication protocol that is designed to be of higher performance than a prevailing standard communication protocol; and
- communicating the Internet message from the selected second specialized node to the destination using a third communication protocol.

81. (new) A method for communicating Internet messages between a source and a destination comprising:

- selecting a node of a first type from one or more nodes of a first type, wherein the selected node of a first type is close to the source;
- establishing a communication link between the source and the selected node of a first type for communicating Internet messages using a first communication protocol;

establishing a communication link between the selected node of a first type and a node of a second type for communicating Internet messages using a second communication protocol that is designed to be of higher performance than a prevailing standard communication protocol; and
establishing a communication link between the node of a second type and the destination for communicating Internet messages using a third communication protocol.

82. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the selected node of a first type is co-located with the source.

83. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the selected node of a second type is co-located with the destination.

84. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the node of a first type is software that may be co-located with the source or remotely located from the source.

85. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the node of a second type is software that may be co-located with the destination or remotely located from the destination.

86. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the selected node of a first type is co-located with the source.

87. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the node of the second type is co-located with the destination.

88. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the node of a first type is software that may be co-located with the source or remotely located from the source.

89. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the node of a second type is software that may be co-located with the destination or remotely located from the destination.

90. (new) The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

communicating a second Internet message from the destination to the node of a
second type using a fourth communication protocol;
communicating the second Internet message from the node of a second type to the
node of a first type using a fifth communication protocol; and
communicating the second Internet message from the node of a first type to the source
using a sixth communication protocol.